

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

FEAE-00 OMB-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 /133 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1879

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 7998

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, TW

SUBJECT: SECTION 301 PETITION FILED BY CHARLES REHFELDT,
LAI FU TRADING CO. LTD.

REF: (A) STATE 176962, (B) TAIPEI 7675, (C) STATE 288752

1. ACTING ECON/COMM COUNSELOR CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF REF (C)
TO VICE MINISTER OF FINANCE L. T. HSU AND VICE MINISTER OF
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS K. S. CHANG DECEMBER 2. WE HAD ALREADY MADE
THESE POINTS WITH HSU PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REF (C), BUT WEIGHT
OF DEPARTMENT'S OPINION DEFINITELY HELPFUL JUDGING BY HSU'S
REACTION. HE PROMISED TO INFORM MINISTER OF FINANCE WALTER FEI
IMMEDIATELY. AS HSU HAD ALREADY INFORMED US, MOF CANNOT PRO-
POSE ADDITIONAL REDUCTIONS, ONLY MODIFY MOEA PROPOSALS UPWARD.
THEREFORE, IN MINISTER Y. S. SUN'S ABSENCE, ACTING ECON/COMM
COUNSELOR CALLED ON CHANG, RANKING OFFICIAL IN MOEA TO MAKE
SIMILAR POINTS. CHANG SAID HE WOULD CONTACT HSU IMMEDIATELY
REGARDING OUR CONCERNS. IN BOTH CASES THE NEED FOR PROMPT
ACTION AND FOR REDUCTIONS TO REQUESTED LEVELS WAS EMPHASIZED.
AS MOEA MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY MAKING A NEW PROPOSAL IN MINISTER
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SUN'S ABSENCE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF IMPORTANCE AND URGENCY

OF MEETING USG REQUESTS COULD BE RE-EMPHASIZED TO SUN DURING HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. WHILE THE MOEA INFORMS HE WILL NOT VISIT WASHINGTON, WE ASSUME HE COULD BE REACHED THROUGH ROC EMBASSY.

2. HSU CALLED THIS MORNING (DEC. 3) TO INFORM US HE HAD ALREADY TAKEN THE MATTER UP WITH MINISTER FEI AND INDICATED A WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE MOF TO GO ALONG WITH A NEW MOEA PROPOSAL. HE SAID THAT THE PREVIOUS MOEA PROPOSAL, WITH MOF APPROVAL, HAD ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE CABINET FOR ACTION NEXT WEEK. ANY MODIFICATION OF THE PROPOSAL, THEREFORE, SHOULD BE MADE WITHIN A FEW DAYS. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD NOT YET HEARD FROM VICE MINISTER CHANG. IF HSU HAS NOT HEARD FROM CHANG BY THIS AFTERNOON WE WILL AGAIN CONTACT CHANG.

3. WITH REGARD TO STATEMENT MADE PARA (2)(C) REF (C) THAT SURCHARGES WILL EXPIRE IN MARCH 1977, WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE SURCHARGES, WHICH RAISED TARIFFS ON COLOR TV RECEIVERS AND REFRIGERATORS (INCLUDING FREEZERS) FROM 45 PERCENT TO 60 PERCENT, WERE REMOVED JULY 1, 1976.

4. CHARLES REHFELDT INFORMS US HE WILL DEPART FOR WASHINGTON DECEMBER 4 TO OBTAIN IMMEDIATE ACTION ON HIS PETITION. HE STATES HE WILL TRY TO SEE PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER, AMONG OTHERS, AND IS PREPARED TO TAKE THE MATTER TO THE SUPREME COURT. HE ALSO SAID HE AND HIS LAWYERS WILL ATTEND THE DECEMBER 8 MEETING OF THE USROCEC IN CHICAGO WHICH MINISTER SUN IS EXPECTED TO ADDRESS. REHFELDT HAS BEEN KEPT INFORMED OF THE GENERAL PROGRESS OF OUR REPRESENTATIONS, BUT NOT REPEAT NOT THE CONTENT OF THE MOA PROPOSALS DESCRIBED REF (B) AS WE HAVE CONSIDERED THIS AN INTERNAL GROC WORKING PAPER AND NOT AN AGREED GROC PROPOSAL.
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